



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20008
Tel. # (202) 234-5414
Fax # (202) 232-3236

June 25, 2001

Mr. Geoffrey J. Judge
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Planning and Administration
Office of Environment, Safety
and Health
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Judge:

I want to express my appreciation to you for your participation in the US Department of Energy (DOE) and Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) annual meeting. In my opinion, we were successful in building on the positive working environment that Dr. Paul Seligman helped to nurture. The RMI Government and the local atoll governments were pleased that we successfully concluded a joint **communiqué** so we can be clear about our common objectives for the coming year.

While I know that Minister Gerald Zackios will be writing to you in the near future about the representation and venue of the working group – the group that will formulate 5-year strategic plans for the environmental and medical programs, and report on progress regarding the issues of concerns in the joint **communiqué** – I want to touch base with you on a few other issues.

First of all, I want to work with you to help ~~address~~ some minor problems in the DOE website, <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/ihp/>. At the previous DOE annual meeting that Dr. Paul Seligman and the former RMI Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Phillip** Muller, chaired, it was agreed that the terms “exposed” and “non-exposed” would be replaced by “acutely exposed” and “chronically exposed.” This is an important distinction to the RMI. The term “non-exposed” gives the impression that people in the “non-exposed” received no exposure to radiation whatsoever. Both the RMI and DOE agreed that people have been exposed to different degrees, but the term “non-exposed” is incorrect. Therefore, I would appreciate it if the DOE website could be corrected as soon as feasible. My office would also be pleased to assist in correcting some of the factual information on the site, if you need our assistance.

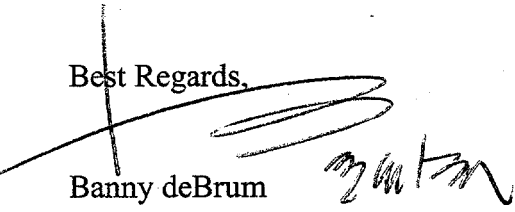
Page 2
Mr. G.J. Judge
6/25/01

Secondly, I would like to ask what DOE's policy is regarding current clean-up workers in the RMI. If the unfortunate circumstance arises where Marshallese workers are exposed to dangerous levels of radiation as a result of their efforts to clean-up radiologically contaminated sites in the RMI, would DOE be responsible for assisting with the workers' medical needs? Also, now that there is evidence to indicate that residual radiation levels on Ailuk Atoll are near or above the current RMI standard for clean-up, is DOE able to assist with the environmental or medical needs of Ailuk Atoll or any other atoll with residual radiation problems?

As Minister Zackios stated at the annual meeting, the official clean-up standard the RMI employs is the 15 mrem standard adopted by the Nuclear Claims Tribunal, as well as the Yucca Mountain and Rocky Flats locations in the United States. Therefore, all future work related to radiation exposure and clean-up should be based on the 15 mrem standard.

Again, thank you for a productive meeting. We look forward to seeing you in the RMI again soon!

Best Regards,


Banny deBrum
Ambassador to the United States